

KINDNESS IS CONTAGIOUS IN  
CONGRESS**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2000*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a successful anti-violence organization in my district. Founded in 1982 in Kansas City, the STOP Violence Coalition's mission is to promote non-violence through education, programming, and collaboration. The program serves 25,000 students, parents, educators, and inmates each year through kindness education, bullying prevention, and inmate rehabilitation. Its founder and one of my constituents, SuEllen Fried, is a well-known leader in the fields of child abuse and peer abuse prevention.

The STOP Violence Coalition has had success with many of its programs. The Reaching Out From Within™ program, directed toward inmate rehabilitation, has a 23% recidivism rate, compared to the national average of approximately 60%. The Coalition has also compiled the 12 Contributing Factors to Violence™, organized the Elder Rights Coalition™, and collaborated with area agencies to address issues related to violence prevention and organization. The Coalition has received the 1999 National American Community Award from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency.

One of the STOP Violence Coalition's most effective programs is the Kindness is Contagious™ program. Last week, at the request of another community leader, who is also of my constituents, Norman Polsky, I distributed Kindness is Contagious . . . Catch it! buttons to each of my colleagues in the House. The purpose of the buttons is to wear the Kindness button until someone is observed behaving kindly toward another, at which time the button is passed on. The recipient is asked to observe others for kind behavior and to pass on the button to someone else who deserves the recognition. Thus it become everyone's responsibility to continue the chain of kindness and giving.

Though the program is school-based, the message is not just for youth. Youth and grown-ups alike need to keep in mind that although we have strong feelings and will disagree about certain things, at the end of the day we should always treat people with the dignity they deserve.

Nearly 300,000 students in 400 Kansas City area schools have participated in Kindness is Contagious™, which promotes the passing of the Kindness button. Since June of this year, over 1,500 inquiries from concerned citizens throughout the country and world have contacted the STOP Violence Coalition to see how they can start the Kindness program in their own communities.

Mr. Speaker, this program is something that has made people around the nation stop and think about their personal behavior and how it affects others, something all of us—within and outside of Congress—should always keep in mind. I would like to thank SuEllen Fried and Norman Polsky for their leadership and vision with these programs and their many efforts throughout our community. I commend them for their tireless service and dedication.

I hope these buttons will change hands many times and encourage caring, consider-

ation, and compassion. I will be wearing this button in an effort to promote kindness. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort and spread this program to their districts.

TRIBUTE TO MS. DEBBIE RUMMEL:  
MIDWEST DISTRICT HIGH  
SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATOR  
OF THE YEAR**HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2000*

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to take this opportunity to officially recognize an outstanding educator from the 16th district of Illinois for her important contributions to advancing educational excellence in Illinois.

Ms. Debbie Rummel lives in Spring Grove and is a physical education teacher at Antioch Community High School in Antioch, IL. She exemplifies the innovation and encouragement that teachers can bring to education. Ms. Rummel has recently been recognized by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) for her outstanding teaching skills and her ability to influence students to continue to engage in physical activities throughout life.

Beyond receiving NASPE's Midwest District High School Physical Educator of the Year Award, Ms. Rummel has also been inducted into the University of Wisconsin-Platteville's Athletic Hall of Fame, granted a Nutrition Education Teaching Award from Illinois NET, and received a Governor's Award of Excellence in Physical Education and Fitness.

I am honored and pleased to have this opportunity to pay tribute to the hard work and dedication that characterizes Ms. Rummel's gift of teaching.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2000*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the chamber on Monday, July 17 when rollcall votes numbered 401, 402, 403 and 404 were cast. Had I been present in the Chamber at the time these votes were cast, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 401, "yes" on rollcall vote 402, "yes" on rollcall vote 403 and "no" on rollcall vote 404.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2000*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, last week I was granted leave of absence for July 19, 2000 and the balance of the week, on account of a death in the family.

Had I been present, I would have voted on the following rolls, as indicated:

No. 412—On Passage of H.R. 1102, the Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act—"Yea"

No. 413—On Agreeing to the Conference Report for the Defense Appropriations Act for FY 2001, H.R. 4576—"Yea"

No. 415—Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 4577, Making Appropriations for Labor, Health and Human Services for Fiscal Year 2001—"Yea"

No. 416—On Passage of H.R. 2634, the Drug Addiction Treatment Act—"Yea".

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4810,  
MARRIAGE TAX RELIEF REC-  
ONCILIATION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 2000*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, when we considered this bill earlier, I voted for it, although I was very reluctant to do so. But I cannot vote for this conference report.

My support for the bill was reluctant because while I support ending the "marriage penalty," I thought the House bill was not the right way to achieve that goal. In some areas it did too little, and in others it did too much.

It did too little because it did not adjust the Alternative Minimum Tax. That means it would have left many middle-income families unprotected from having most of the promised benefits of the bill taken away. The Democratic substitute would have adjusted the Alternative Minimum Tax, which is one of the reasons I voted for that better bill.

The Republican leadership's bill did too much in another area. Because it was not carefully targeted, it did not just apply to people who pay a penalty because they are married. Instead, a large part of the total benefits under the bill would have gone to married people whose taxes already are lower than they would be if they were single. In other words, a primary result would not be to lessen marriage "penalties" but to increase marriage "bonuses."

And, by going beyond what's needed to end marriage "penalties" the House bill would have gone too far in reducing the surplus funds that will be needed to bolster Social Security and Medicare.

Those were the reasons for my reluctance to vote for this bill. They were strong reasons. In fact, as I said then, if voting for the bill would have meant that it immediately would have become law, I would have voted against it. But, I reluctantly voted for it because at that point the Senate still had a chance to improve it.

I was prepared to give the Republican leadership one last chance to correct the bill's deficiencies rather than simply to insist on sending it to the President for the promised veto. I hope that the Republican leadership would allow the bill to be improved to the point that it would merit becoming law—meaning that it would deserve the President's signature.

Unfortunately, they did not take advantage of that opportunity. Instead, today they are insisting on sending to the President a bill that falls short of being appropriate for signature into law. I cannot support that approach, and I cannot support this conference report.

The conference report is not identical to the House bill, but it is still very poorly targeted.